



Hedgerow Planting

Conservation Practice Job Sheet

FL422JS

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
1999

June

Client _____

Definition

A hedgerow planting is the establishment of a living fence of shrub or trees in, across, or around a field.



Purpose

A hedgerow can be used to delineate field boundaries, serve as fences, establish contour guidelines, provide screens, or improve the landscape. Hedgerows also provide food and nesting cover for wildlife and allow wildlife to better utilize the adjacent fields. Hedgerows also provide some of the same benefits as windbreaks, while those on the downhill side of fields help catch sediment,

nutrients and pesticides that may wash from the field.

Where used

In, across, or around fields and pastures.

Requirements for establishing hedgerow plantings

Hedgerows should be a minimum of 15 feet wide and contain woody vegetation as a minimum; however, best results will be achieved where there is a mixture of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous species.

Hedgerows may be created by either natural succession or by supplemental planting. Even those created naturally can often be improved by adding specific plants such as trees that provide both beautiful flowers and fruits useful to wildlife. Between fields, the center row(s) should consist of the tallest growing species and the average height should decrease down to the outermost rows of herbaceous vegetation.

Hedgerows separating fields from forests do not need trees, but should be established with shrubs next to the forest and herbaceous species next to the field. Herbaceous plants next to fields will help reduce competition with the crops in the fields.

Wildlife

All hedgerows attract wildlife, but the plant species selected can greatly affect the benefits provided. Hedgerows established for wildlife purposes should be a minimum of 25 feet wide, to reduce the effectiveness of predators and to provide good travel corridors. All plant species should benefit wildlife as either food or cover. Other considerations for wildlife include:

- Plant a variety of fruit-and nut-producing trees and shrubs
- Native species should be planted whenever possible.
- Hedgerow should be protected from grazing.
- The use of native, warm-season grasses should be encouraged in all hedgerows. These bunch grasses provide good nesting sites for ground-nesting birds and the open spaces between plants allow good feeding habitat for birds and small mammals.

Specifications

Site-specific requirements are listed on the specification sheet. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide practice standard for Hedgerow Planting (422)

Operation and Maintenance

- Control competing vegetation until the woody plants are established.
- Re-plant as necessary to maintain a continuous hedge.
- Protect from uncontrolled fire and grazing.
- Damaging pests should be monitored and controlled.
- When renovation is needed, use fire, herbicides, or mechanical means to set back the vegetation to an earlier stage of succession. Renovate no more than 1/3 of the length at one time, allowing time for re-growth.

Hedgerow Planting - Specifications Sheet

Client _____ Field Number _____

Planner's Name _____ Date _____

Purpose (Check all that apply)

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delineate field boundaries | <input type="checkbox"/> Establish contour guidelines | <input type="checkbox"/> Provide visual screens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provide wildlife habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> Improve landscape esthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Provide fence |

Location and Layout	Hedgerow 1	Hedgerow 2	Hedgerow 3/Other
Hedgerow width			
Hedgerow length			
Acres in hedgerow			

Plant Materials Information**Woody Plants and Vines**

Species/cultivars:	Kind of stock ¹ :	Planting Dates:	Number of rows	Average spacing ² :	Total # of plants needed
<i>Hedgerow 1</i>					
1					
2					
3					
4					
<i>Hedgerow 2</i>					
1					
2					
3					
4					
<i>Hedgerow 3 (or Other Information)</i>					
1					
2					
3					
4					

¹ BA=bareroot, CO=container, CU=cutting. ² Average spacing between plants to achieve plants/acre.**Herbaceous Plants**

Species/cultivars:	Seeding rate (lbs/ac) ¹ Or Sprigging rate	Planting Dates:	Recommended lime (tons/ac)	Recommended fertilizer N-P ₂ O ₅ -K ₂ O (lbs/ac)	Total # of PLS needed
<i>Hedgerow 1</i>					
1					
2					
3					
4					
<i>Hedgerow 2</i>					
1					
2					
3					
4					

<i>Hedgerow 3/Other Information</i>					
1					
2					
3					
4					
¹ Pure live seed (PLS) where available.		TOTAL:			

Site Preparation

Where sod-forming grasses are established, kill with herbicide as first step of site prep. Apply recommended lime and fertilizer and prepare a firm seedbed. Additional requirements:

Planting Methods

For container and bare root stock, plant stock to a depth even with the root collar in holes deep and wide enough to fully extend the roots. Pack the soil firmly around each plant. Cuttings are inserted in moist soil with at least 2 to 3 buds showing above ground. Control competing vegetation until well established.

Drill grass and legume seed _____ inches deep uniformly over area. Additional requirements:

Hedgerow maintenance

Inspect periodically and protect from damage (e.g., grazing, herbicides, mechanical, etc.) so proper function is maintained. Replace dead or dying tree and shrub stock and continue control of competing vegetation until hedgerow is established. Damaged areas should be repaired and/or re-vegetated. When renovation is needed, cutback or burn only part of the hedgerow at a time, allowing re-growth before doing the next section. Additional requirements:

Hedgerow Planting – Job Sketch

An aerial view of the hedgerow is shown below. Other relevant information, such as location in the field, and adjacent field or tract conditions, including structures and crop types, and additional specifications may be included.

Approximate scale: 1"= _____ ft. (NA indicates sketch not to scale)

Additional Specifications and Notes: